

Peking story (American prisoners in China) - correspondence, letters and ca...

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Dag Hammarskjöld's sand.

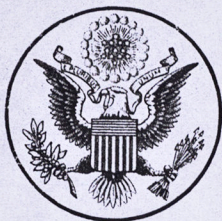
Peking story - 1955

22 March - 9 May

Lodge, Henry Cabot (Perman. Represent.
of U.S. to the U.N.)

- 5 letters to D.H.
- 3 letters from D.H.

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary General of the
United Nations.



THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

March 22, 1955

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

This letter refers to the Secretariat publication UNITED NATIONS REVIEW, which, according to the statement on its own masthead, "mirrors" the work of the United Nations in order "to advance public understanding of all aspects of this work." I understand that this review has been substituted for an earlier publication, the UNITED NATIONS BULLETIN, which provided a useful summary of events in the United Nations.

The UNITED NATIONS REVIEW appears to have a general editorial approach which goes beyond the impartial recording of facts and apparently seeks to influence opinion. Although scarcely any single statement or quotation seems other than factual, the selection and emphasis as among the varying views quoted from different delegates do not, I am certain, fairly reflect the balance of opinion and decision in the General Assembly on the matters being reviewed. Rather, they seem to reflect the opinions of the anonymous editors of the REVIEW.

This tendency has been particularly demonstrated in the articles on political questions which have appeared in recent issues of the REVIEW. There is a definite bias against the majority view expressed in the General Assembly or the Security Council and in favor of the minority position upheld by the Soviet Union. The articles I have in mind are:

- August 1954 -- "The Guatemalan Appeal to the United Nations"
- November 1954 -- Discussion of China's representation in the United Nations - page 20-21, under "Other Problems"
- February 1955 -- The first two articles on the matter of the United Nations prisoners in Communist China
- March 1955 -- The leading article on the "offshore islands" item in the Security Council.

The existence of this bias is particularly serious in view of the fact that this publication is circulated widely among universities and institutes and organizations interested in the United Nations.

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary General of the
United Nations.

UN - 3468

For all I know there may be similar bias in other United Nations publications. Accordingly I urge most strongly that you and Professor Bokhari give high priority to a review of the Department of Public Information output so that the unfortunate bias which occurs in the UNITED NATIONS REVIEW can be eliminated and any other similar tendency in other publications or media can be corrected.

If you or your staff would like to have a detailed explanation of the reason for our concern about these articles, I will be glad to discuss them further with you or I will arrange to have members of my staff discuss the question with Professor Bokhari or members of his staff.

Sincerely yours,


Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.



THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

Two Park Avenue,
New York 16, N. Y.,
March 25, 1955.

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

Thank you for your letter of March 22, 1955,
transmitting information concerning a cable which you
have received from Peiping.

I have transmitted the contents of your letter to
the Department of State.

Sincerely yours,

H. C. Lodge, Jr.
Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary General,
United Nations.

UN 3452/W



THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

March 28, 1955

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

This acknowledges your letter of 28 March 1955 about the American prisoners. I have read it with care and am immediately bringing it to the attention of the Secretary of State.

I do appreciate all the trouble and thought which you are giving to this matter which is of such vital -- and I may say -- deeply moving meaning to us in the United States.

Needless to say, I hope with all my heart that your efforts are successful, but it seems to me that there is very little encouragement in what has happened so far.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

H.C. Lodge, Jr.
Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary-General of
the United Nations,
New York, New York.



THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

Two Park Avenue,
New York 16, New York
May 4, 1955.

Dear Dag:

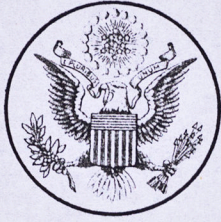
Thank you for your letter of May 2 enclosing copies of your memorandum on your conversation at Stockholm and Mr. Khoman's report of Prince Wan's interview with Chou En-lai. I have forwarded these documents to Washington for the attention of the Secretary of State.

Sincerely yours,

H. C. Lodge Jr.
Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary-General,
United Nations, New York.

UN 3252/X



THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

Two Park Avenue
New York City
May 9, 1955

Reverend

Dear Dag:

You have my humble apologies. It is not often that I make an error of this kind -- at least, I hope not -- and when I talked to the Congressmen on Saturday I had the definite impression in my mind that your meeting in Stockholm had already been made public. I am horrified to realize that you are quite right and that it never had been.

I am really terribly sorry and cannot adequately express how badly I feel. You can be sure that had I realized that your meeting in Stockholm was a secret, I would never have said a word about it.

With renewed regrets and apologies,

Very sincerely yours,

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

22 March 1955

My dear Mr. Ambassador,

Some time ago I gave you a copy of a letter to Mr. Chou En-lai concerning the four jet pilots imprisoned in China. I have now received by cable a reply of which I want to inform you.

After acknowledging receipt of my letter of 17 February, Mr. Chou En-lai restates his position in the case of the four fliers as I had, in fact, myself described it in my own letter. He adds that the way in which China deals with the case "will not be influenced by the clamours on the US side". He qualifies this by saying that he appreciates the efforts to which I referred in my letter.

In a second paragraph he says that the fact that family members have been prevented from coming to China "is naturally unfortunate to the US personnel and their families". He adds that it can only demonstrate that the US Government "is not really concerned about those US personnel."

The final paragraph, which may be regarded as the main substance of his reply, states that "as soon as a result is reached on the investigation of the four US personnel" and the case dealt with, he "will inform me immediately".

I will send to him the family letters as soon as I have received all of them. This will be done with a covering note of which you will get a copy.

His Excellency
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
2 Park Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

22 March 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. Ambassador,

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His Excellency
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
2 Park Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

2 May 1955

Dear Cabot,

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From Jerry you have already had a first report on my talks in Stockholm with Ambassador Keng Piao. Immediately on my return I hasten to send you a copy of my personal notes together with Mr. Khoman's report to Mr. Cordier on the results of my request to Prince Wan. The second document confirms in a most interesting way an essential point in my own aide memoire.

It seems to me obvious that when the Ambassador, discussing the outcome of the Peking talks, used the term "the support and the understanding of the Chinese people", it should be read as indicating that he had got the approval of the Party, just as the action of "shortening the term of imprisonment" in the context can only be read as meaning release.

Encl.

His Excellency
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.
United States Mission to the United Nations
2 Park Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

9 May 1955

Dear Cabot,

I note from the newspapers that you - in the course of your briefing of the visiting Congressman last Saturday- gave publicity to the fact that I had a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Stockholm.

You will remember that I went to extremes to keep that meeting secret. As I pointed out in my strictly confidential memorandum to you concerning the talk, I managed to arrange the luncheon in Stockholm so that all publicity and all leaks were avoided. I considered it vital to continue to maintain the discretion and at my press conference, last Thursday, I therefore refused to go beyond stating that contacts with Peking had been "intensified" during my recent trip to Europe, and refused to be drawn into revealing whom I had met and where.

My reason for the strictly secret treatment of the Stockholm contact was that this channel is likely to be efficacious only if it can be protected from publicity. In view of the interest of the prisoners, I am distressed when I think of the possible consequences of the publicity now given to the meeting. Probably it excludes any further use of this most valuable way of conveying our concern to Peking without having it diluted or coloured by intermediaries.

As I am writing to you I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for the kind words of confidence you said about me and my efforts. These I highly appreciate.

His Excellency
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.
United States Mission to the United Nations
2 Park Avenue
New York City, N.Y.